

April 17, 2006

The Honorable Matt Blunt
Governor of Missouri
State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Blunt:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2005 Annual Report of the Missouri State Park Advisory Board. This report, pursuant to Executive Order 86-26, summarizes the major accomplishments for the Missouri state park system during calendar year 2005.

A major emphasis in 2005 was to upgrade and improve our state park campgrounds. Approximately 230 basic campsites were upgraded to electricity to better meet the needs of our campers. Camper cabins, which offer a new camping experience, were added at two state park campgrounds.

Two new facilities, Iliniwek Village State Historic Site and Morris State Park, were officially dedicated. Both facilities showcase the state park system's mission of preserving natural and cultural resources.

The department continued to seek public input through informational meetings and surveys. In an ongoing effort, public opinion surveys were begun at six state parks and historic sites in 2005.

The Missouri state park system has a long and proud tradition of providing outstanding public service. Your continued interest and support of these efforts is appreciated. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me through the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks at (573) 751-9392.

Very truly yours,

MISSOURI STATE PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Gerald Greiman
Chairperson

GG:she

2005 Annual Report of the Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Gerald Greiman, Chairperson (2004-2006)
St. Louis

Don Johnson (2001-2008)
Festus

Anne O' Connell Albrecht (2005-2007)
St. Louis

Robert Miller (2005-2006)
Meadville

Wayne Morton (2005-2008)
Osceola

E. Sanford Baker (2001-2007)
Kansas City

Jeanne Kirkton (2005-2007)
St. Louis

Elizabeth Buckrucker (2005-2007)
Holt

Larry Russell (2005-2007)
Springfield

Matt Blunt, Governor

Doyle Childers, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Douglas K. Eiken, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Record of Decisions for 2005

January 13, 2005 Motion made to approve the Conceptual Development Plan for Fort Davidson State Historic Site. Motion carried.

January 13, 2005 Motion made to approve the Stockton State Park Concessionaire price increase proposal. Motion carried.

May 19, 2005 Motion made to introduce a proposal for consideration to expand business opportunities at the Starboard Marina in Table Rock State Park. Motion carried.

July 8, 2005 Motion made that the Advisory Board accept the study of the Grand Glaize task force at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Motion carried.

October 7, 2005 Motion made to proceed with a 5-year roll over on the renewal of the Lee C. Fine Airport lease. Motion carried.

October 7, 2005 Motion made to approve proposed price increases for the following sites: Sam A. Baker, Meramec, Big Lake, Montauk, Stockton, Table Rock, Thousand Hill Harry S. Truman, Washington, Castlewood, Pershing and Roaring River state parks. Also approved was Creole House, Battle of Athens, Fort Davidson and Mastodon state historic sites.

2005 Major Improvements Projects

During 2005, many significant improvement and construction projects were accomplished within the state park system. Many were visible to the public while others included infrastructure projects to help protect the environment and provide a better overall service to the public. While some were contracted to private companies, many were completed by the park system's inhouse construction crews. The majority of these projects were funded by the one-tenth-of-one percent parks-and-soils sales tax. The following are some of the major highlights.

Campground Improvements

Campground improvements were a major focus of the year 2005. This included increasing the number of electrical campsites, upgrading existing electrical campsites and renovating showerhouses and restrooms. In 2005, approximately 230 basic campsites were upgraded to electricity. This brings the total number of campsites upgraded with electricity to approximately 500 in the last two years. This effort is moving toward a goal of having 70 percent of the park system's 3,500 campsites offering electricity, which is more in step with the demand by campers.

- Facilities where **electrical service** was added to campsites included Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Lewis and Clark State Park, Long Branch State Park, Pomme de Terre State Park, Sam A. Baker State Park, Table Rock State Park and Weston Bend State Park.
- At **Bennett Spring State Park**, a major project is under way to double the size of campground #1 from three to six acres. The number of campsites will remain at 48 but the expansion will provide larger campsites for today's larger recreational vehicles and more green space between the sites.
- Water was added to 14 sites at **Meramec State Park** and crews constructed three new 50 amp electric sites, which soon will be upgraded with water and sewer.
- Another major improvement in two campgrounds was the addition of **camper cabins**. Six log camper cabins are available in the campground at Mark Twain State Park and five log camper cabins are available at Stockton State Park. These rustic cabins provide a new type of camping experience with electricity but no water or restrooms.
- Another type of camping experience will be available next year at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The **yurt**, which will be available in 2006, is a circular structure with a fabric cover and wooden frame.

The **swimming pool** at Washington State Park was totally renovated and reopened. New features included zero entry accessible ramp, shallow area and a spiral slide.

Following a severe windstorm in July 2004, **Harry S Truman State Park** was ready in 2005 to fully open to the public. The storm damaged many trees, which presented safety issues for visitors.

A new office and visitor contact station was completed at **Harry S Truman State Park**. The facility replaces one destroyed by fire.

Construction began on a new boardwalk at **Big Oak Tree State Park**. The old boardwalk was removed and is being replaced with a wider and sturdier steel boardwalk

following the same path. When completed in 2006, the boardwalk will be approximately 3,000 feet long.

Work began on the expansion of the visitor center at **Van Meter State Park**. The expansion will include a 50-foot by 50-foot addition that will eventually house exhibits on the homelands of American Indians in Missouri.

A new shelter house was dedicated at **Battle of Athens State Historic Site**. The shelter house, which resembles a storefront known to have been in Athens at the time of the 1861 Civil War battle, features a kitchen, restroom, and a space for gatherings and interpretation.

Construction continued on the renovation of the Williams Creek Lake dam at **Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and Historic Site**. The project, which was required to meet current dam safety requirements, involved raising the dam height, widening the emergency spillway and placing new rock on the dam face to prevent erosion.

A new boardwalk trail was dedicated at **Van Meter State Park**. The .75-mile Oumessourit Wetland Boardwalk Trail provides access to the 300-acre Oumessourit Natural Area, a natural remnant of the Missouri River floodplain.

The long-time project to paint the lodge at **Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site** was completed. The project was very involved because of the condition of much of the woodwork, the difficult terrain around the lodge, and the size and design of the lodge itself. Gardens outside the lodge were restored to resemble their appearance when the lodge was actively used.

The Pershing Memorial Association donated \$4,000 to make the office at **Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site** accessible to people with disabilities. Once completed, it will enable the office to become an official tourism information center.

A project to control erosion along Forest Lake in **Thousand Hills State Park** was completed. The project goal was to stabilize the shoreline of the lake, which will protect the recreational resources and facilities along the shore.

Missouri Mines State Historic Site was closed temporarily so work could be done on special projects to enhance interpretation at the site. The project included efforts to renovate portions of the museum to expand the interpretive areas.

Numerous **playgrounds** were installed at 11 state parks and historic sites, replacing ones that no longer met current safety standards.

The “mud bridge” at **Bollinger Mill State Historic Site** was replaced in a cooperative effort with the Cape Girardeau County highway department. This is a small bridge over the feeder creek at the south end of the day-use area.

At **Dillard Mill State Historic Site**, a new shelter was added in the picnic area, two new roller mills were installed in the mill, and a new foot bridge was built across Indian Creek for access to the mill.

The local Home Depot coordinated a community volunteer project to repair trail benches at **Mastodon State Historic Site**. They purchased the lumber and supplied the labor and tools to replace the seats of seven trail benches that had deteriorated.

Approximately 30 boards were replaced on **Sandy Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site** due to flood damage.

A major project was begun at **Onondaga Cave State Park** to replace the handrails throughout Onondaga Cave. The new handrails will improve visitor safety and preserve the sensitive cave ecosystem.

Environmental upgrades and infrastructure improvements continue to be a major priority for the state park system. Examples include upgrading water and sewer systems, closing abandoned lagoons, and developing new drinking water distribution and storage systems. Spill prevention and control and countermeasure plans were developed for 26 state parks.

Where possible and feasible, state park systems are being connected to **public utilities** for water and wastewater systems. Examples are Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and Route 66 State Park.

The dam at Roaring River State Park is being repaired in a cooperative effort with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Structures for **information depots** along Katy Trail State Park were constructed at McKittrick, Augusta, Matson, Weldon Spring and Treloar trailheads. These depots will contain information about the trail and the local communities.

Crews remodeled the exterior of four four-plex **cabins** at Bennett Spring State Park and the interior and exterior of six cabins at Roaring River State Park.

Through the ongoing **pavement management system**, numerous roads were resurfaced or repaved throughout the state park system, including Roaring River, Route 66, Bennett Spring, Wakonda and St. Joe state parks.

Nine benches, one picnic site and three trees were donated and installed in **Bennett Spring State Park**.

The gate at the front entrance of **River Cave** at Ha Ha Tonka State Park was replaced to better protect cave resources and to improve conditions for federally endangered gray bats.

Electrical service was installed at the **Pa He Tsi** access area at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. This included light standards erected at the ramp and parking area.

A major **stream improvement project** was under way at Montauk State Park. This cooperative venture with the Department of Conservation included selective gravel removal from key fishing holes, fish structure enhancements, and riparian corridor vegetation planting.

Improvements were made to the **accessible fishing access** adjacent to Bluff Spring Branch at Montauk State Park.

The root cellar was reconstructed at **Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site**. This involved some stone repair, tuck pointing, replacing the log beam rafters and placing 1-2 feet of sod over the roof.

The main house at **Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site** was painted.

Roofs were replaced on the administration building, recreation hall and dining facility at the Outdoor Education Center and the visitor center at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park.

The **horse trail** at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park was rerouted, providing a safer trail ride for equestrian enthusiasts.

The **flood protection project** for the visitor center at Sam A. Baker State Park was completed. The pump and berm system was constructed to protect the historic visitor center from flooding of the nearby Big Creek.

An office was opened at the **Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park**. This created an onsite staff presence at the park and provided for much more efficient management of the facility. A maintenance building was also constructed and an electric gate was installed at the entrance to the park’s access road.

A plank board fence was reconstructed and whitewashed with an antique recipe at **First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site**. Kids participating in the site’s Historical Children’s Festival were able to help with the whitewashing.

New signs interpreting the natural environment and the results of the prescribed burns were installed on an overlook at **Hawn State Park**.

Bees Bluff Trail, which leads to an overlook of the Current River, was added to **Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry**.

Coordination continues on a proposal by the local Shriners, who volunteered labor for the construction of a six-mile multi-use trail at **Robertsville State Park**.

Several projects were completed at **Route 66 State Park**, including a new equestrian trailhead parking area, an accessible walkway in the park’s picnic area, and a new vault toilet in the trailhead parking lot. At the park’s boat ramp area, additional parking spaces were added, a new accessible loading ramp was built and an extension of the concrete ramp was completed.

With the opening of the new entrance road to Campground 1 in **St. Joe State Park**, more people are directed to the office, which resulted in an increase in concession sales. The new road has allowed the staff to have more control over the campground. The staff formerly in the campground booth were redirected to help with park maintenance and the park office.

Park staff at St. Joe State Park completed the **Pim Beach Remediation Project**, which will provide a beach area for children six years old and younger that is free of tailings. The project also addressed accessibility issues by providing a concrete ramp into the water at Pim Beach.

St. Joe State Park staff installed approximately five miles of **barrier fencing and signing** in an effort to eliminate the encroachment of all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles from the designated riding area into other areas with significant natural resources. The project was funded with a grant through the federal Recreational Trails Program.

Two new playgrounds at **Long Branch State Park** were funded by local groups, the Long Branch Lake Association and the Macon Rotary Club.

Moto-Cross Parents Inc. donated and constructed a fence to protect the integrity of a cemetery located near the moto-cross track at **Finger Lakes State Park**.

Boy Scout Troop 725 donated material and labor to remove and replace 1,200 square feet of asphalt shingles on the **moto-cross concession building** at Finger Lakes State Park.

At **Wakonda State Park**, an office renovation project provides more space for staff and increased public accessibility. The park also developed an additional three-fourths mile hiking trail.

Restoration of the Pommer-Gentner House at **Deutschheim State Historic Site** neared completion.

Fire and security systems were upgraded at **Jefferson Landing State Historic Site**. These will both increase security for staff and collections as well as make the site eligible for traveling exhibits from other museums.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Projects in 2005

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources continued its commitment to activities commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 2003 to 2006. This was accomplished both through support from the department's Division of State Parks staff for the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission (MLCBC) and projects by the division for the state park system. For a complete list of accomplishments of the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, an annual report is available.

The **Lewis and Clark Traveling Exhibit** was displayed in 18 different cities throughout the state. The exhibit was produced by the Missouri Historical Society with the support from MLCBC and the Missouri State Museum, which receives the reservations and coordinates the shipping to each location.

With financial assistance from the MLCBC, the division completed six Lewis and Clark **interpretation trunks**, which were distributed for use throughout the state park system. They contain reproduction objects and materials that interpreters can use to develop programs on Lewis and Clark as well as interpretive programs based around the 1800 to 1820 period and the Missouri fur trade.

MLCBC staff began work on the **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Legacy Awards** to recognize programs, efforts, individuals and organizations that made a lasting contribution to the bicentennial commemoration.

Based on the journals of the expedition members, **weekly updates** of Lewis and Clark Expedition activities 200 years ago were posted on the MLCBC Web site.

The division staff continued to maintain and upgrade the **MLCBC Web site**, which was created as the key site for Lewis and Clark information in Missouri. In 2005, the Web site recorded 1,053,989 hits, an increase of 358 percent since the division began managing the Web site in 2002.

State Historic Preservation Office Successes

With the Department of Natural Resources reorganization in 2005, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was moved back into the Division of State Parks. The SHPO helps identify, evaluate and protect Missouri's cultural resources.

Accomplishments in 2005 include the following:

Missouri Tax Credits--Missouri's 25 percent state tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings continued to be a major accomplishment for preservation in the state as the number of significant rehabilitation projects fueled by this credit continued to grow and expand. The state approved a total of 160 projects that resulted in a total direct investment of \$360 million. The combination of the federal and state credits was an extremely effective tool for encouraging investment. Last year, Missouri lead the nation in both the number of federal tax credit projects reviewed and in the amount of investment certified.

Increase in National Register Nominations--The dramatic increase in the number of National Register nominations processed and listed seen since the establishment of the Missouri Rehabilitation Tax Credits continued in 2005. Last year saw some 63 new listings representing 6,140 resources.

Local Government Assistance--The SHPO continued its efforts to assist Missouri's local governments. Five new communities -- Arrow Rock, Augusta, Grandview, Lone Jack and Moberly--were certified as Certified Local Governments by the SHPO and the National Park Service.

Scanning and Digitization of Inventory Records -- Efforts continued to scan and digitize records in the Cultural Resource Inventory. All National Register files have now been scanned and are available in a digital format. Additionally all Cultural Resource Management (CRM) reports have been scanned and efforts are under way to enter the site data into a GIS layer.

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS ACREAGE
DEC. 31, 2005

STATE PARKS – 49

STATE PARK	ACRES
Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial	2,441.00
Sam A. Baker	5,323.62
Bennett Spring	3,216.74
Big Lake	407.41
Big Oak Tree	1,028.68
Big Sugar Creek	2,082.54
Castlewood	1,802.65
Crowder	1,912.10
Cuivre River	6,393.94
Elephant Rocks	131.74
Finger Lakes	1,128.69
Graham Cave	359.86
Grand Gulf	321.96
Ha Ha Tonka	3,679.74
Hawn	4,953.66
Johnson's Shut-Ins	8,549.51
Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones – Confluence Point	1,121.43
Katy Trail	2,935.85
Knob Noster	3,567.38
Lake of the Ozarks	17,441.52
Lake Wappapello	1,854.23
Lewis and Clark	189.13
Long Branch	1,828.47
Meramec	6,896.33
Montauk	1,396.12
Morris	161.22
Onondaga Cave	1,317.70
Pershing	3,565.66
Pomme de Terre	734.44
Prairie	3,942.00
Roaring River	3,973.38
Robertsville	1,224.65
Rock Bridge Memorial	2,272.83
Route 66	418.61
St. Francois	2,734.97
St. Joe	8,242.98
Stockton	2,175.90
Table Rock	356.03
Taum Sauk Mountain	7,501.09
Thousand Hills	3,079.70
Trail of Tears	3,415.39
Harry S Truman	1,440.00
Mark Twain	2,775.14
Van Meter	983.43
Wakonda	1,053.87
Wallace	501.61
Washington	2,147.57
Watkins Woolen Mill	843.11
Weston Bend	1,133.08
SUBTOTAL	136,958.66

STATE HISTORIC SITES – 34

STATE HISTORIC SITE	ACRES
Arrow Rock	167.39
Battle of Athens	407.94
Battle of Carthage	7.40
Battle of Lexington	92.25
Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio	0.32
Bollinger Mill	43.00
Nathan Boone Homestead	400.20
Boone's Lick	51.17
Bothwell Lodge	246.91
Clark's Hill/Norton	13.40
Confederate Memorial	135.22
Deutschheim	0.69
Dillard Mill	131.77
Dunklin's Grave	1.37
First Missouri State Capitol	0.66
Fort Davidson	86.26
Hunter-Dawson	19.80
Iliniwek Village	127.49
Jefferson Landing	1.27
Jewell Cemetery	0.45
Scott Joplin House	3.86
Locust Creek Covered Bridge	32.22
Mastodon	425.00
Missouri Mines	25.00
Osage Village	100.00
Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home	2.69
Sandy Creek Covered Bridge	205.78
Sappington Cemetery	2.00
Towosahgy	64.00
Harry S Truman Birthplace	2.51
Mark Twain Birthplace	13.00
Union Covered Bridge	1.24
Felix Vallé House	10.13
Watkins Woolen Mill	624.00
SUBTOTAL	3,446.39

OTHER FACILITIES – 5

FACILITY	ACRES
Brookfield District Office	7.46
Festus District Office	8.67
Lebanon District Office	10.00
Boonville District Office	2.06
Capitol Complex	2.27
SUBTOTAL	30.46

SUBTOTAL	140,435.51
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Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry	61,000.00
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TOTAL ACRES	201,435.51
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Flooding Impacts Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

On Dec. 14, the Taum Sauk Reservoir near Lesterville failed, sending more than one billion gallons of water into Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The flooding caused extensive damage to the area of the park along the East Fork of the Black River, where most of the park's facilities are located.

Facilities that were destroyed included the campground and the superintendent's residence. Major structures and facilities that were damaged included the boardwalk to the shut-ins, the park's water and wastewater systems, and the park office/store. Mud and debris covered much of the area, including the fen, a designated Missouri natural area. In some areas, including the channel of the East Fork of the Black River, the landscape was altered. The shut-ins, although impacted by sediment and debris, remained essentially intact. A portion of the Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail between Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park and Taum Sauk Mountain State Park was damaged.

Park Superintendent Jerry Toops and his family lost their home when the flood occurred and his three young children were hospitalized. All three children are now doing well. Several donation accounts were set up to assist the Toops family.

Once any immediate environmental issues were addressed, assessment of the damage began. This was followed closely by initial cleanup and recovery work, which included removing debris and sediment from the main areas of the park. Soon after, planning began on long-term recovery and redevelopment strategies for the park.

The main portion of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park was closed as cleanup efforts began. The damaged section of the Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail also was closed. A goal was set to have some services available some time during the summer of 2006; there will not be any camping services available this season.

The Goggins Mountain hiking and equestrian trail and trailhead, which is located in an area of the park that was not damaged, remained open. All other state parks and historic sites in the area were undamaged and remain open.

A special Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park Web page was set up to update the public on the recovery efforts. This Web page, www.mostateparks.com, included photographs and other information.

Awards and Recognitions in 2005

Many individuals and groups received awards or were recognized in some way during 2005.

The Missouri state park system was selected as a finalist in the **2005 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management**. The competition is sponsored by Porter Athletic Equipment Company and Musco Lighting in partnership with the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The Missouri Park Association (MPA) recognized four employees with **Employee of the Year Awards**: Tom LeRoy, Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site, was the maintenance/construction employee; Vicki Akin, Financial and Resource Management Program, was the central office employee; Mike Dickey, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, was the facility head employee; and Debbie Martz, Northern Missouri Historic District, was the field employee.

Doug Eiken, director, received the **Ambassador Award** from the Missouri Division of Tourism.

The following groups received awards at the **National Association of Interpretation (NAI) Region VI** workshop in Fort Smith, Ark.: The Missouri State Museum received the NAI Region VI Small Grants Program award to help fund a project to interpret the Civil War; the proposal was written by Jamie Hubert. The Spring Interpretive Training School and its organizing committee, made up of Tiffani Addington, John Cunning, Cyndi Evans, Wanda Doolen, George Kastler, Janet Price, Dakota Russell, Jennifer Schumacher and Brian Stith, received the Outstanding Program Award.

The following two staff members were recognized with the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources Natural Areas Stewardship Awards**: Dan Files, Pershing State Park, and Jack V. Winburn, North Construction Unit.

Staff members from the Missouri State Museum were honored with a resolution from the **Missouri House of Representatives** recognizing their exemplary work during Capitol tours. The group included Chris Sterman, Theora Peterson, Jamie Hubert, Linda Endersby, Wiley Tracy, Cloriaetta Flexsenhar, Jack Larson, Mary Ann Chambers, Gail Oehrke, Art Kolkmeier, Betty Thompson, Dick Omer, Kay Stratman, Elizabeth Jungmeyer and Kurt Senn.

The following individuals were honored with the department's **Division of State Parks Masterpiece Awards** in the year 2005. Spring awards were presented to the following: Laura Hendrickson, Pomme de Terre State Park; Kyle Scott, Jimmy Rhodes and Perry Vaughn, Wakonda State Park; Randall Forbes, Van Meter State Park; Charles Buchanan, Dennis Hattersley, Ray Studdard, Tom Smith, Charles Roberson, Frank Arrigo and Dwayne Bostick, Meramec State Park; Robert Witthaus, Deutschheim State Historic Site; Eric Gregory, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park/Katy Trail State Park; Mark Hill, Planning and Development Program; Erika Jaques, Planning and Development Program; Don Fink, Route 66 State Park; Dawn Frederickson, Planning and Development Program; Melanie Robinson, Visitor and Facility Services Program; Kurt Senn, Resource Management and Interpretation Program; Larry Webb, Ha Ha

Tonka State Park; Barbara Wilson, Director's Office and Frank Wesley, Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.

Fall Masterpiece Award winners follow: David Reynolds, Pomme de Terre State Park; Penny Perrigo, Long Branch State Park; John R. Williams, Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site; Sandra McCain, St. Joe State Park; Jack Smoot, Randy Quade, Donna Allen, Van Riehl, Larry Mayfield, Iris Liken, Leah Poole, Amy Dale and Jessie Rhodes, Bollinger Mill State Historic Site; Steve Hayden, Alan Lancaster, T. Lucas Anderson and Gregory L. Bacon, State Park Ranger Program; Jessica Terrell, Planning and Development Program; Linda Endersby, Resource Management and Interpretation Program; Randy Clay, Joseph Lundy, David Conner and Gary Willard, Sam A. Baker State Park; and Jeremy Anthony, Curtis Spenard, Brenda Jones, Ferlin Guthrie and Rebekah Talbott, Bennett Spring State Park.

Six employees received awards at the **Association of Missouri Interpreters** (AMI) workshop. Bethany Meyer, seasonal at Mark Twain State Park, received the scholarship award in the undergraduate category. L.A. Lowrance, Bennett Spring State Park, received the distinguished interpreter of the year in the seasonal category. In the profession category, Dana Hoisington, Bennett Spring State Park, received the same award. Allison Vaughn, Ha Ha Tonka State Park, received the interpretive effort award in the individual category. The award for the best sharing at the workshop went to Eugene Vale, Resource Management and Interpretation Program. Cyndi Cogbill, Prairie State Park, received a special award for her long-term service to AMI and the National Association of Interpretation Committee.

The video *Missouri's Native Son – Mark Twain* won a **Silver Plaque** in the visitor center presentations category in the **41st International Communications Film and Video (INTERCOM) Competition**. The film also received a Gold Davey Award in the historical/biographical category. The film was produced by the Resource Management and Interpretation Program and is shown at Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site.

Michael Dickey, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, received the **2005 Governor's Humanities Book Award** for his book *Arrow Rock: Crossroads of the Missouri Frontier*. The award is given by the Missouri Humanities Council.

2005 Year-End Summary

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Missouri's state park system, which preserves the state's most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks and provides opportunities for recreation. The following are some of the major accomplishments for 2005.

Iliniwek Village State Historic Site, the site of a village inhabited by the American Indians of the Iliniwek Tribe, was officially dedicated June 25. The Iliniwek, or Illinois, was one of the three most significant American Indian groups occupying Missouri at the time of first European contact and this is the only known Iliniwek village site found so far in Missouri. The 127-acre site, located in northeast Clark County, includes an interpretive trail, displays and a picnic area.

Morris State Park, which preserves a unique area in Missouri's Bootheel, was officially dedicated Oct. 8. The 161-acre park is located in an area of southeast Missouri known as Crowley's Ridge, a unique geologic formation of low hills in the Mississippi River floodplain. The day-use park features a two-mile loop hiking trail, an overlook and exhibits. The park, located north of Campbell, was donated by Jim D. Morris of Springfield.

The centralized campground reservation system, which was implemented in 2003, was expanded in 2005 to include reservations for **lodging accommodations** in five state parks: the primitive Outpost cabins at Lake of the Ozarks State Park; the cabins at Lake Wappapello State Park; the recreational vehicles at Wakonda State Park; the cabins at Washington State Park; and the camper cabins at Mark Twain State Park.

The **centralized campground reservation** system continued to be very successful with more than 57,240 sites/units reserved in 2005. This is up from 44,621 sites/units in 2003, the first year of the program. A total of 2,350 campsites in 35 state parks and historic sites are available for reservations. The average number of nights stayed increased from 3.35 to 3.41 and the number of complaints continues to decrease.

A new **online reservation system** makes it easier for visitors to reserve group tours for the State Capitol and orientation to Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. The new Web site, www.mocapitoltours.com, allows visitors to check available dates and times and make a reservation for a tour even when the Missouri State Museum office is closed. The online reservation system will serve as a model for other historic site tours in the future. It is an example of using technology to be more efficient and effective.

School kids helped **restore native habitats** while learning about the state park system. Fourth grade students at the Rushville elementary school helped plant trees at Lewis and Clark State Park. Students from three schools in the St. Louis area helped restore Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park by planting trees there.

A new **Missouri State Parks Passport Program** began April 1 and will run through December 2006. All parks and sites are included in the passport but participants are required to visit only about 75 percent of the parks or sites in each of the six regions to receive a patch. In addition to the regional theme, the passport program includes two bonus categories – overlooks and historic structures. Those who complete each of these bonus categories will receive a special prize.

In a continuing effort to seek public input, staff developed and initiated **public opinion surveys** at Thousand Hills, Roaring River, Castlewood, Route 66 and Meramec

state parks and Felix Valle House State Historic Site. This year-long survey initiative will ask visitors how satisfied they are with their visits as well as collect expenditure data and socio-demographic information. In addition, staff purchased data from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, a nationwide survey conducted every 10 years. Data purchased is specific to Missouri residents and their outdoor recreation patterns.

Based on feedback gathered through guest comment cards distributed in all parks and sites, visitors continue to be very satisfied with their experiences. **Overall visitor satisfaction** in 2005 was 94 percent, up 2 percent from 2004.

The **Web home page** for the state park system was redesigned to be more streamlined to allow visitors more direct access to the information they are seeking. New options were added and information expanded. The individual park/site pages are more individualized in their navigation to make it easier to find their specific information. During 2005, there were 11,957,080 hits to the Web site. This is up 302 percent in the last five years.

Additional information was added to the division's **Web site** in 2005, including public surveys for parks and sites in the conceptual development process, final conceptual development plans for five state parks and historic sites, and accessibility information and photographs for 10 more state parks and historic sites.

The public could receive **information** through e-mail and mail requests and the division's toll-free number. The division responded to more than 5,800 e-mail requests and more than 320 written requests. The division received more than 65,000 automated toll-free calls and responded to 13,400 operator-assisted toll-free calls.

To reach regular park users and attract new visitors, the division staffed **exhibits** at nine sports/RV shows including ones at Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, St. Joseph and Columbia. Other shows included meetings of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Parks and Recreation Association and the Missouri Equine Council.

Almost 180,000 people attended approximately **300 special events** in more than 60 state parks and historic sites. These events ranged from spring wildflower walks to historic festivals.

The **conceptual development plan** (CDP) process continued for Deutschheim and Bollinger Mill state historic sites, including hosting public meetings and conducting online and paper opinion surveys. The CDP for Graham Cave State Park was initiated and included approximately 300 public contacts at two special events as well as more than 100 surveys collected. CDPs that were completed and submitted for signatures this year included Fort Davidson State Historic Site and Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point, Crowder and Lewis and Clark state parks.

The number of state parks and historic sites participating in the **Park Watch Program** increased from 31 to 52. The program is an effort by the State Park Ranger Program to assist visitors in having a safe and enjoyable recreational experience.

Almost 60 **informational meetings** and open houses were held at state parks and historic sites in 2005. These meetings are held annually for each park and site to provide visitors with opportunities to have input on facilities and services. More than 1,850 people attended these meetings.

Two couples were awarded the first **25-year camper awards** for camping at least five times each year in a state park campground. The recipients were Roger and Debby Niermann of Florissant and Charles and Kathleen Hinton of Hazelwood.

Through the **Volunteers in Parks** (VIP) Program, 3,298 volunteers contributed 165,880 hours to the state park system. This included 397 campground hosts, who volunteered 117,751 hours. Other volunteer categories included aides, trail workers, and interpreters. The total value of this volunteer effort is estimated to be more than \$1.25 million.

The first-ever **Missouri State Park Fest** was held in September in cooperation with the Missouri Parks Association. The event, based in the Columbia area, brought together friends and support groups with diverse interests in the state park system.

General management plans, which guide all aspects of the park or site, continue to be completed. Six facilities had completed cultural resource management plans and 15 more are in process; 13 natural resources management plans were completed and 19 more are in process; and 16 interpretation plans were completed and another 20 are in process.

The first draft of a divisionwide interpretive action plan in anticipation of the **Civil War sesquicentennial** in 2011 was developed. Staff at the Missouri State Museum began working on a series of new exhibits that will open between now and the end of the sesquicentennial. One of the first projects involved the completion of two traveling trunks that can be used to develop a variety of programs explaining the Civil War in Missouri.

A total of 85,254 records have been entered into the **artifact database**. This represents 42.6 percent of the estimated 200,000 objects in the division's artifact collection.

Through the **Cultural Resource Fund**, 37 objects were conserved or assessed in Fiscal Year '05. So far in Fiscal Year '06, 12 projects are under way and 11 more are scheduled to be finished by June 2006. Examples include conservation treatment of art prints of Ralph Waldo Emerson at Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site and repair of a fainting couch at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

The \$150,000 resource stewardship budget funded **landscape restoration** and exotic species control work at state parks and historic sites throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 acres were prescribed burned to help preserve natural environments and native Missouri plant and wildlife including several rare and endangered species.

A new educational display entitled *Insects of Missouri* was developed.

The resource management section participated in statewide planning for the **Conservation Wildlife Strategy**, an interagency effort to develop plans to channel federal wildlife funds into state conservation projects.

The division worked with the Missouri Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a **wetland mitigation grant** to assist with solving the Higgins Ditch headcutting problem and other water and wetland protection issues at Pershing State Park.

Discussions were initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the St. Louis Zoo and The Nature Conservancy regarding reintroducing a population of federally endangered **American burying beetle** at Prairie State Park.

New procedures and guidelines were completed for **wild area management** in state parks. Following approval of these procedures, a training workshop was held for

wild area managers to introduce them to these new procedures. The state park system has 11 wild areas that are designated for their wilderness qualities.

Numerous **scientific research projects** were completed in state parks, including deer herbivory studies in Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park; annual Mead's milkweed monitoring at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park; and long-horned beetle survey at Hawn State Park.

Two new **video productions** were completed: "Mark Twain: Missouri's Native Son" and "The Last Boys in Gray: The Confederate Home of Missouri." The video "The Battle of Pilot Knob" was updated using footage from the 2004 battle re-enactment at Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

Implementation of a computer-based reporting system for **interpretive contacts** resulted in more accurate and timely data collection. In 2005, 53,018 interpretive presentations were provided to 1,328,712 people.

More than 960 **Junior Naturalist** awards were completed by people of all ages.

The Missouri State Museum developed and opened five **new exhibits** in the state Capitol on the following topics: Civil War medicine, Women's Auxiliary Corps during World War II, the Seminole War, state symbols, and the 711th Transportation Detachment of the Missouri National Guard's tour in Iraq.

The **Elizabeth Rozier Gallery**, located within Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, hosted seven art shows and one art history exhibition.

More than 300 people attended the 2005 **Katy Trail Ride** on Katy Trail State Park from Clinton to St. Charles in June.

An **interpretive tobacco plot** was planted at Weston Bend State Park. The public has responded positively to this effort to interpret this portion of the agricultural history of the area.

A restoration plan was completed for the Kelly Branch area of **Finger Lakes State Park** to help the division comply with water quality standards by protecting the stream. The plan also includes the addition of designated riding trails and improvements to existing trails. It will take several years before all components of the plan can be fully implemented.

The first ecological stewardship **controlled burns** were held at Mark Twain State Park. More than 400 acres were burned to enhance the natural resources of the park.

Through a cooperative effort with the Missouri Department of Conservation, various state parks were able to provide additional interpretive programs at the **Kansas City Discovery Center**.

Burfordville Covered Bridge was used in a national television commercial by Anheuser Busch, and featured the Budweiser Clydesdales coming across the bridge.

Thousands of **Confederate soldiers' names** and units serving in the northern Arkansas and southeast Missouri regions were compiled for genealogy purposes and placed on the Web site for Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

Several **authentic firearms**, including an original 1860 Colt Army pistol and an original Colt revolving rifle were placed on display at Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

At Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site, "Phyllis' Room" was completed and opened in the back L of the house. Phyllis was an enslaved woman that was given to Amanda Hunter when she married and was a house servant. The room helps the staff **interpret slavery** at the site.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services grant was completed at **Mastodon State Historic Site** when two mobile shelving units containing state-of-the-art artifact storage cabinets were installed in the collections storeroom. The units were installed to house the site's collection, which currently is housed in Illinois.

More than \$11.5 million in gross sales was generated by the **concessionaires**, private businesses that operate many of the dining and lodging facilities as well as other services in the state park system. Of this amount, more than \$1.2 million was paid to the state. In 2005, new concessionaires operated at Roaring River State Park and Pomme de Terre State Park.

Successful **WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School** events were held in St. Louis and at Roaring River State Park. These events familiarize participants with outdoor recreation skills and opportunities.

Twenty-two communities received more than \$1.7 million in **federal grants** to assist with park and recreation needs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Twenty projects for trail-related construction and maintenance received approximately \$1.1 million in funding through the federal Recreational Trails Program.

Following **Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**, the state park system offered assistance to residents displaced by the events. All basic campsites were offered free of charge and all campsites with improved services were half off the regular rate. A 20 percent discount on all lodging facilities also was offered.

The department partnered with the Missouri Park and Recreation Association to hold the second annual **Missouri Trail Summit** Oct. 27-29 in Columbia. The summit brought together trail professionals, advocates and users from across Missouri and neighboring states.

A one-half scale reproduction of Kansas City artist **Thomas Hart Benton's mural** for Harzfeld's Department Store was donated for display at Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site. The allegorical mural, *Achelous & Hercules* was originally commissioned in 1946.

A new book, *The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri*, showcased what the state's native plant and animal communities looked like prior to settlement. The full-color 500-page book was published by the Missouri Natural Areas Committee and was a cooperative project of several federal and state agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources.

A new five-year contract was signed between the division and **Rockwoods School District** to operate the Outdoor Education Center and the swimming pool and providing day-use camps at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. Over the past four years, the park has seen a drastic difference in programming opportunities because of this agreement. Park staff and the school district have several weeks of day camp, called Babler Wild, and one-day experiences for urban students from St. Louis inner city. During 2004 and 2005, Babler staff completed 542 outreach programs and 87 campground programs, an increase of 180 programs since the signing of the Rockwoods contract.

A six-year project for historical research, oral histories, archaeological excavation and neighborhood interaction has been planned between the **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site** and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. This project is being funded by the Division of State Parks and part of a Gear Up Grant awarded to UMSL.

Meramec State Park hosted a dedication in September for the new memorial for the **Civilian Conservation Corps**. The memorial was developed to honor the men that served in the two camps in the Meramec valley and helped construct facilities at the park.

The concessionaire implemented a change in operation of the dining lodge at **Meramec State Park**. The facility is now a combination park store and grill.

A new friends group, the **Onondaga Friends Association**, was developed to help promote Onondaga Cave State Park.

The first ever **Environmental Management System** (EMS) for Missouri state parks was developed for St. Joe State Park and Missouri Mines State Historic Site and is currently under review. An EMS incorporates environmental conscientiousness into the mission and goals of any project.

The conceptual development plan for **Knob Noster State Park** was amended to include plans for a 10-mile mountain biking trail and rerouting of the equestrian trail.

A special exhibit with objects from the **Osage Tribal Museum** in Pawhuska, Okla., was available during much of 2005 at Arrow Rock State Historic Site. About 21,500 visitors saw the exhibit, which focused on the Osage, the predominant historic tribe that occupied what is now Missouri.

The Arrow Rock State Historic Site visitor center was the setting for a \$155,255 grant the Friends of Arrow Rock and Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg received through the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide a **National Landmarks Teachers** workshop in July. About 80 teachers from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska attended sessions on Missouri history and culture.

The Susan Anthony House was acquired and added to **Battle of Athens State Historic Site**. The house was a part of the town when the 1861 Civil War battle occurred. Plans include removing a later addition and restoring the house to its 1861 appearance.

One room in the Anderson House at **Battle of Lexington State Historic Site** was modified to reflect its appearance when used as a field hospital during the 1861 Civil War battle. The room, with stretchers, bandages, and medical supplies and equipment, enable the staff to focus more on interpretation of the events that occurred in the house.

The **Friends of the Anderson House** continues to support Battle of Lexington State Historic Site by providing quality 19th century historic re-enactments through various special events throughout the year.

The division purchased **81 acres** of property at five different state parks and historic sites, including 25 acres at Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site, 41 acres at Washington State Park, 10 acres at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park, and several inholdings at Battle of Athens State Historic Site. All property was adjacent to existing park/site property and was purchased to protect existing resources.

At **River Cave** in Ha Ha Tonka State Park, a monitoring program was implemented that includes an annual bio-count, photo stations, quarterly water quality monitoring and stream and gravel depth measurements.

Natural resource monitoring efforts at **Ha Ha Tonka State Park** resulted in new information for two state-listed species of conservation concern. The spectaclecase mussel found at the park is a new species record for the Niangua River and is a candidate species for federal listing. Ringed salamanders were found to be a common species throughout the park despite their state listing as a species of conservation concern.

Because of budget issues, the Missouri Department of Corrections closed **Camp Hawthorn** at Lake of the Ozarks State Park after having provided inmate labor for the park for more than two decades.

Four female bison from **Prairie State Park** were exchanged with four bulls from Konza Prairie in Kansas to enhance the genetic diversity of the bison herd. The third successful annual bison auction was held and 30 bison were sold for \$11,460. The first-ever onsite elk auction was held with 17 elk being sold for \$1,410.

All commissioned law enforcement staff received **new body armor**. The vendor for the old body armor agreed to replace it free of charge after the armor failed national ballistic tests. Had the vendor not replaced the armor, the division would have had to purchase new body armor for approximately \$35,000.

A **Critical Incident Stress Management** team was developed within the division to help employees deal with major accidents and disasters within the state park system.

As a part of the larger effort to enhance interpretation at **Missouri Mines State Historic Site**, work continued on organization and cataloging of extensive mining artifact/mineral specimen collection. The work will culminate with a major new exhibit for the museum in an expanded interpretive area.

An additional room, the “clerk’s office” was opened as an interpretive space at the **Felix Valle House State Historic Site** with furnishings purchased through the division’s Cultural Resource Fund.

More than 90 participants attended the annual **Interpreters Training School** held at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. In addition to full-time interpretive staff and seasonal employees, attendees came from Kansas, Illinois, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

An agreement was signed between the department and the city of Farmington regarding the spreading of sludge on the tailings area at **St. Joe State Park**. The sewage sludge will fertilize existing vegetation and promote new vegetative growth.

A Gold Star Mother’s Memorial plaque donated by a veterans group was installed and dedicated in October at **Washington State Park**.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Missouri Department of Transportation to construct a **curatorial building** for archaeological resources at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Finger Lakes Off-Road Rider Association was formed. This **volunteer support group** is interested in trail maintenance and related issues at Finger Lakes State Park and has already conducted three trail work days at the park with more planned.

An **online park store** was established on the division’s Web site to assist people wanting to purchase merchandise.

Division staff participated with departmental environmental staff and representatives from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study and assess restoration options for Big River in **St. Francois State Park**.

Through a partnership with Camp Coca-Cola from the Wyman Center in St. Louis, more than 200 youths were provided a backcountry and camping experience at **Lake Wappapello State Park**.